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## Should Not Oculists Be More Careful in Prescribing Colored Glasses?

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Doubtless all of you are cognizant of the fact that our text-books (the most of them at least) fail to give any advice as to the wearing of colored glasses, save as a protection to bright and reflected lights. Soelberg Wells (1) says "Eye-protectors are found of much service to guard the eyes from very bright light, dust or cold winds. The best are the medium blue curved. Moreover, the blue color on account of the more eccentric position in the solar spectrum, makes a less impression upon the retina. Smoked glasses are not so good, and they more or less subdue and diminish the whole volume of light and color, and thus render the image somewhat indistinct." Mittendorf (2) says that "The use of colored glasses is indicated in all affections of the eye in which the irritating effects of bright light is to be avoided. Corneal, iritic, retinal, and some forms of conjunctival diseases call for their use, and in these cases blue glasses are especially useful. Such glasses ought to have the shape of shells, and are called coquilles." Noyes (3) says "We first speak of protection of the eyes from hurtful influences, viz: From dust, smoke, glaring light, and extreme heat, by colored or transparent glasses. Protective glasses are known usually as coquilles, and shaped like a watch glass, and tinted London smoke or blue. The neutral tint is generally better than blue."

Hartridge (4) tells us that "Tinted glasses are sometimes required for diminishing too much light, in case of irritation or inflammation of the retina, or of photophobia from various causes, as myopia, etc. In these cases light blue glasses which cut off the orange rays are the best, but smoked colored are preferred by some surgeons." Meyer (5), Lawson (6), Carter and Frost (7), Macnamara (8), Landolt (9), Juler (10), and numbers of others that I might mention altogether ignore the wearing of colored glasses in their respective works on diseases of the eye.

It is not of any particular color, however, to which I call your attention, yet I am fully convinced that London smoked glasses as a rule are more comfortable to a diseased eye than blue, and oftentimes have I tested patients, and invariably the smoked glasses would be the most preferable. Now as to shape, I beg to say that beyond all question they should be perfectly plain, that is flat, if so the rays of light are not changed, and it is this error in refraction that is artificially produced by the wearing of concave glasses, that I wish to ask, should not oculists be more careful in prescribing or advising patients when needing colored glasses to go to an optician or jeweler perhaps to select for themselves. As you well know, it is claimed, and truthfully so perhaps, that an error in refraction, equal to so low a degree as one-half dioptre, is liable to bring on asthenopia, accompanied at times by its kindred, to-wit: Epilepsy, chorea, headache, indigestion, etc. Moreover, in the examination of an eye, should we find ametropia equal to this low degree of refraction we unhesitatingly advise its correction (for fear of eye-strain or its evil effects) even if no asthenopic trouble is realized or complained of by the



patient. If this be true, why advise or let a patient with inflammatory trouble of the eye wear glasses that will cause or render the eye ametropic, taking it for granted that they are emmetropic to commence with. Now I have here a half dozen pair of colored glasses which were handed me by an optician in response to the question will you let me have a half dozen pair of perfectly plain colored glasses? When tested I find them to be curved shaped, and one-fourth dioptré and over astigmatic with myopic focus. I mailed out of this number one pair to an expert optician of Philadelphia, Pa., and asked for its refraction or strength, and the following are his words: "I find the glasses or lenses full of bubbles and scratches, and still more they have a one-half cylindrical motion, and a myopic focus of O. 37 D." I also have here a flat or plain pair of smoked glasses which has no refractor power, which I invariably prescribe, and to my mind should be the kind advised for those needing colored glasses. In conclusion I beg to say that I trust some of you who have won celebrity and influence will become interested in this matter which has so long lain dormant, and bring about a correction of this great error and evil.

1. Diseases of the Eye.
2. Diseases of the Eye and Ear.
3. Diseases of the Eye.
4. Refraction of the Eye.
5. Diseases of the Eye.
6. Diseases and Injuries of the Eye.
7. Ophthalmic Surgery.
8. Examination of the Eye.
9. Examination of the Eye.
10. Ophthalmic Science and Practice.